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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/779,400	02/16/2004	Ryuichi Iwamura	50T5720.02	2801

7590 03/09/2006
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EXAMINER

PHAN, RAYMOND NGAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2111

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/779,400	Applicant(s) IWAMURA, RYUICHI	
	Examiner Raymond Phan	Art Unit 2111	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 10-14 and 31 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 7, 15-18, 22-30, 32 and 33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 8, 9 and 19-21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02162004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Part III DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-33 are pending.
2. The Group and/or Art Unit location of your application in the PTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Group Art Unit 2111.

Specification

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

5. Claims 15-18, 22-26, 32-33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Srivastava (US Pub 2002/0194596).

In regard to claims 15, 22-23, Srivastava discloses a home entertainment system, comprising: at least a first component 130 having a first host bus (i.e. PCI bus) 146 with a first bus width and communicating with a network 125 using a first

universal network interface 126 via 125e (see figure 1); and at least a second component 104 having a second host bus (i.e. 64K bit bus) with a second bus width and communicating with a network 125 using a second universal network interface 125a (see figure 1), each universal network interface having a respective host bus interface configurable for communicating with a component host bus of the respective component, the universal network interfaces being identical to each other at least prior to configuration of the respective host bus interfaces (see para 12-14).

In regard to claims 16, 24, Srivastava discloses wherein each component 130 configures the bus width which process digital data and to provide a transport stream consisting of fixed length packets (see para 34-35) of the host bus interface 153 (i.e. PCI) of the respective universal network interface 126 (i.e. IEEE 1394) (see figure 1, para 12-13 and 35-36). Srivstava further discloses compressed data from audio-video devices 104, 108, 112 are demultiplexed, decompressed, and formatted for transmission on the PCI bus 146 (see para 36).

In regard to claims 17, 25, Srivastava discloses wherein each network interface includes at least one data stream port 123 (see figure 1, para 31).

In regard to claims 3, 26, Srivastava disclose wherein each network interface includes at least one host bus interface 125a communicating with a host bus 125 of the respective component (see figure 1).

In regard to claim 18, Srivastava discloses wherein each network interface includes at least one network communication port 126 communicating with a common network backbone (see figure 1).

In regard to claims 32-32, Srivastava discloses a server 130 having a third network interface 123 communicating with the network 125, wherein the first

component is a TV 170 and the second component is an audio client component 104 (see figure 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-4, 6-7, 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srivastava in view of Brescia, Jr (US Pub No. 2004/0255069).

In regard to claim 1, Srivastava discloses a home entertainment network, comprising: at least one network path 125 (see figure 1); at least a first component 130 having a data bus of a bus width (i.e. PCI) (see figure 1, paras 12-13); at least a second component 104 having a data bus 125a (see figure 1, paras 12-13). But Srivastava does not disclose the second bus width being different from the first bus width; and respective network interfaces connecting each component to the network path. However Brescia Jr discloses the mechanism and method for interfacing two different kind of buses (i.e. PCI and EBI, etc) comprising the first device having first data bus (see para 28), a second device having second data width (see para 29), second bus width is different from the first bus width (see paras 28-29); respective network interface connecting each component to the network path (see figure 4b). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of Brescia Jr within the system of Srivastava because it would provide the functionality that can be dynamically charged in real time based on the address information.

In regard to claim 2, Srivastava discloses wherein each network interface includes at least one data stream port 123 (see figure 1, para 31).

In regard to claim 3, Srivastava disclose wherein each network interface includes at least one host bus interface 125a communicating with a host bus 125 of the respective component (see figure 1).

In regard to claim 4, Srivastava discloses wherein each network interface includes at least one network communication port 126 communicating with a common network backbone (see figure 1).

In regard to claim 6, Brisca Jr discloses wherein the host bus interface is configured to have a bus width equal to the bus width of the component with which it is associated (see para 37-39). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of Brescia Jr within the system of Srivastava because it would provide the functionality that can be dynamically charged in real time based on the address information.

In regard to claim 7, Brisca Jr discloses wherein the component configures the host bus interface (see para 37-38).

In regard to claim 30, Srivastava discloses a server 130 having a third network interface 123 communicating with the network 125, wherein the first component is a TV 170 and the second component is an audio client component 104 (see figure 1).

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 10-14, 31 are allowable over the prior of records.
9. Claims 5, 8-9, 19-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the

limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

10. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claims 5, 10, 19 are allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner found neither prior art cited in its entirety, nor based on the prior art, found any motivation to combine any of the said prior arts which teach wherein each network interface includes at least one switch selectively connecting the network communication port to either the host bus interface or the at least one data stream port (claims 5, 19); a switch selectively connecting the network port to either the host bus interface or data port (claim 10).

The remaining claims, not specifically mentioned, are allowed for the same rationale as set forth their parent claims.

Conclusion

11. Claims 1-4, 6-7, 15-18, 22-30, 32-33 are rejected. Claims 5, 8-9, 19-21 are objected. Claims 10-14, 31 are allowed.

12. The prior arts made of record and not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Io et al. (US No. 6,823,420) disclose an entertainment apparatus.

Stufflebeam (US No. 6,567,876) discloses a docking PCI to PCI bridge using IEEE 1394 link.

Sahinoglu et al. (US No. 6,759,946) disclose a home appliance network.

Hellum et al. (US No. 6,742,063) disclose a method and apparatus for efficient transfer of data packets.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Raymond Phan, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3630. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30AM- 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Primary, Paul Myers can be reached on (571) 272-3639 or via e-mail addressed to paul.myers@uspto.gov. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [raymond.phan@uspto.gov].


All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see [hop://pair-direct.uspto.gov](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov). Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 central telephone number is (571) 272-2100.



Raymond Phan
February 15, 2006



JOHN F. COTTINGHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER